

COLASPIS CHRYSIS OLIVIER AND ITS CLOSE RELATIVES
(COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE)

Doris H. Blake

Abstract.—Five species of North American *Colaspis* are described and all are very similar in having the same shaped prothorax and aedeagus. Two species occur in the East; the other three in the West, in Oregon, California and Arizona.

The *Colaspis chrysis* group has one characteristic that I have not found in any other of the *Colaspis* species, namely, an unusual prothorax that is long and convex, with rounded sides, and the front of the prothorax almost conceals the head below. The eyes of the head are nearly hidden by the prothorax and are small and far apart. In addition, the aedeagus when viewed from above is broad clear to the end with a minute pointed tip in the middle. This shaped aedeagus is almost identical in all the five species of the group, although differing in length. In fact, the largest species of the group, *C. chrysis*, has the shortest aedeagus. The smallest of the group, *C. cruriflava*, I included in my paper on the *Colaspis favosa* group, although I stated in my description of it that it did not resemble the rest of the *favosa* group in having longer elytra and in being with a differently shaped aedeagus. I had named it *cruriflava* because it was the only one of the group with yellow legs. I ended my description by writing, "In fact it hardly belongs in the group." At the time I had not studied the species of the *chrysis* group and this small species seemed to fit in with the other small green species of the *favosa* group.

Colaspis chrysis (Olivier)
(Fig. 5)

Eumolpus chrysis Olivier, 1808, Entomologie VI, p. 880.

Colaspis chrysis Horn, 1892, Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc. XIX, p. 223.

Length, 7-9 mm. Width, 3.5-5 mm. Elongate oblong oval, shining green with yellow legs and antennae, densely punctate throughout with transverse ridging across elytra. Head nearly concealed by prothorax, interocular space more than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of head, eyes small; densely punctate even over frontal tubercles, labrum yellow brown, antennae also yellow brown. Prothorax not much wider than long, with sides somewhat curved with very faint trace of toothing below middle in some specimens, convex, densely punctate. Scutellum shining dark green. Elytra scarcely 3 \times as long as prothorax and wider, densely and finely punctate, punctures in single rows near suture, irregularly geminate elsewhere, punctures not coarse,

traces of longitudinal costae, but strongly transverse ridging across elytra below shoulders. Body beneath densely punctate over prosternum and mesosternum and very finely punctate over abdomen.

Type.—Unknown.

Type-locality.—Georgia.

Other Localities.—North Carolina: Blowing Rock, F. Sherman; Black Mts., F. Knab; Linville Falls, F. Sherman; Ashville, Bear Hollow Creek, Saluda, Highlands, Schaffer; South Carolina: Rocky Bottom, Cartwright; Pinnacle Mt., Cartwright. Georgia: Neel Gap, P. W. Fattig; Yonah Gap.

Remarks.—As Horn wrote, it is odd that no one collected this species from the time Olivier described it in 1808 till Horn came along in 1892. It is the largest of the group and unlike the others, except *cruriflava*, has irregular cross ridging over the elytra. Only two of the group come from the East, the rest are found in the far West, in Oregon and California.

Colaspis thaleia Blake, new species

(Fig. 1)

Length, 6.6–7.5 mm. Width, 3–4 mm. Shining dark green with antennae and legs yellow brown, densely punctate over head and prothorax and not so densely punctate on elytra. Head with interocular space more than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of head, densely and very finely punctate with no trace of frontal tubercles and a slight midway depression down front. Prothorax not $2\times$ as wide as long with curved sides having only trace of toothing, in some specimens more apparent than in others; disc convex, very densely and finely punctate. Scutellum shining green. Elytra not $3\times$ as long as prothorax and wider, shining and without longitudinal costae except near apex, punctures in single lines near suture and apex, more or less geminate elsewhere. Body beneath dark bluish green and with dense fine punctures over prosternum, mesosternum and abdomen; legs dark brown.

Type.—♂, USNM. Type No. 73836.

Type-locality.—Cypress Ridge, Marin Co., California.

Other Localities.—Saasta Co., Sonoma Co., Fresno Co., California.

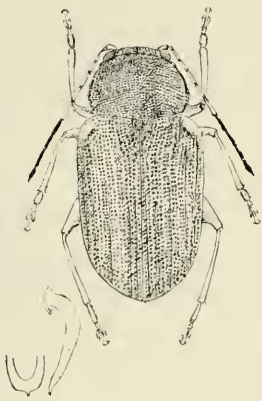
Remarks.—This is one of the group of beetles with the head nearly covered by the prothorax, and the aedeagus like all the others. Judging from the aedeagus one would think they are all one species, but the beetles themselves are different.

Colaspis cruriflava Blake

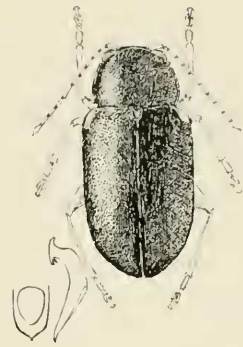
(Fig. 2)

Colaspis cruriflava Blake, 1977, Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 79(2).

Length, 4–4.5 mm. Width, 2.3–2.5 mm. Elongate oblong oval, shining green with yellow brown legs, labrum and basal joints of antennae,



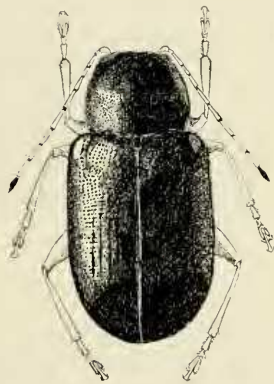
1. *Colaspis thaleia* n.sp.



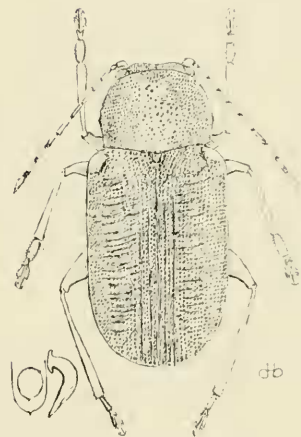
3. *Colaspis oregonensis* Crotch



2. *Colaspis cruriflava* Blake



4. *Colaspis cartwrighti* n.sp.



5. *Colaspis chrysis* Olivier

Fig. 1. *Colaspis thaleia*. Fig. 2. *Colaspis cruriflava*. Fig. 3. *Colaspis oregonensis*. Fig. 4. *Colaspis cartwrighti*. Fig. 5. *Colaspis chrysis*.

densely punctate on prothorax and elytra, a slanting depression on either side of prothorax near base.

Head with interocular space more than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of head, front smooth, nearly impunctate except above frontal tubercles where very fine punctures occur. Antennae pale yellow brown with apical 4 joints dark. Prothorax not much wider than long with faint angularity below middle on side margins, surface densely and finely punctate; on each side of disc near base a slanting depression. Scutellum polished green. Elytra not quite $3\times$ as

long as prothorax and somewhat wider, densely punctate throughout, in single lines near margin and suture, in more or less geminate lines in middle of elytra. Body beneath with abdomen dark, prosternum and mesosternum green, prosternum punctate. Legs yellow brown with claws dark brown.

Type.—USNM Type No. 73484; also 2 paratypes.

Type-locality.—Canalo, Arizona, G. D. Butler, August 3, 1956.

Remarks.—In an earlier paper I described this as one of the *Colaspis favosa* group, but when I came to study the *C. chrysis* group I realized it belonged with them as it had a similarly shaped prothorax and a similar aedeagus. It is the smallest of the *chrysis* group.

Colaspis oregonensis Crotch
(Fig. 3)

Colaspis oregonensis Crotch, 1873. Proc. Acad. Sci. XXV, p. 34.

Length, 6.2 mm. Width, 2–3.3 mm. Elongate oblong oval, shining dark blue or almost copper colored, some specimens nearly black, all with yellow-brown legs and antennae. Head with interocular space more than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of head, densely punctate, head nearly concealed by prothorax. Prothorax not 2× as wide as long; large and with sides almost without toothing in some specimens but in the majority with fine teeth below middle, disc very finely punctate. Scutellum dark. Elytra not 3× as long as prothorax, densely and finely punctate and without any costae, very smooth, punctures near suture in single lines, irregularly geminate elsewhere. Legs dark yellow brown.

Type.—?

Type-locality.—Oregon.

Other Localities.—California: Santa Cruz, Placerville, Los Gatos.

Remarks.—This species is smaller than *C. thaleia* and dark instead of green; the color being variable with some specimens nearly black, others dark blue, and others black with a strong golden sheen over all. The antennae and legs are yellow brown. The aedeagus is the same shape as the others of the group. As in the others, the prothorax nearly hides the head.

Colaspis cartwrighti Blake, new species
(Fig. 4)

Length, 7.5 mm. Width, 4.8 mm. Elongate oval, shining dark brown with bronzy luster, legs and antennae reddish brown. Densely punctate throughout. Head with interocular space more than $\frac{1}{2}$ width of head, whole face dark and shining and very finely punctate. Antennae reddish brown. Prothorax not 2× as wide as long with rounded sides and fine,

dense punctation, unusually convex. Scutellum dark and shining. Elytra approximately 3× as long as prothorax and a little wider, punctures very dense and coarser than on prothorax, mostly in geminate lines with slight elevation between; in single lines near suture and margin. Body beneath shining dark brown with dense punctures on mesosternum; legs reddish brown.

Type.—♀. USNM Type No. 73837.

Type-locality.—Falls Church, Virginia, O. L. Cartwright, collector.

Remarks.—Only a single specimen, and that a female, is in the collection. Although resembling *C. chrysis* and *C. oregonensis* in shape, it differs from them in having almost costate elytra. I am naming this after its collector, who has long been an entomologist working at the US National Museum.

Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
20560.